Payment of bribe for education

692. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent survey conducted by the Transparency International India (TII) people paid bribe amount to Rs. 21,068 crores in the past year and bulk of which went to schools either for getting admission or certificates;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news report giving the details mentioned in part (a) of the question.

(c) In so far as schools run by the Central Government are concerned such practices are prohibited. As far as schools affiliated to the CBSE & the State Boards of Secondary Education are concerned, it is for the respective State Governments to take appropriate steps.

Legislation for fee structure and admissions

693. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any uniform pattern exists at the national level for fee structure and admission to private self-financing educational institutions;

(b) whether any decision has been arrived at in this regard in the State Education Ministers' Conference, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Central legislation exists for regulating fee structure and admissions to private self financing institutions, if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would consider to introduce any such legislation; and

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to include the subject into the Ninth Schedule and if so, whether Government would consider to initiate any steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education, in the Conference held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005, arrived at a broad consensus on the need for Central Legislation in this regard. A draft Bill has been prepared for vetting by the concerned Departments and subsequent circulation among stakeholders and all the State Governments to elicit their views for regulation of admission and fixation of fee.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has received a request from the State Government of Kerala for inclusion of Kerala self-financing Professional Colleges (Prohibition of Capitation Fees and Procedure for Admission and Fixation of Fees) Act, 2004 in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India. A Central legislation in this matter is under consideration. Therefore, no steps have been initiated for considering the inclusion of Kerala self-financing Professional College Act, in the Ninth Schedule.

Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme

694. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has decided to accord top priority to the Indian students in the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme with an allocation of over Euros 230 million in five years;

(b) whether the initial allocation for India stands at Euros 33 million for a period extending upto 2007; and

(c) whether Government have evolved any guidelines for sponsorship of the students to Erasmus Mundus Programmes and if so whether SC/ST and Economically backward categories would be accorded priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme has been formulated by European Union with a view to promoting higher educational co-operation between the EU and remaining countries of the world. The European Union have offered a separate Erasmus Mundus India Window Programme involving Euro 33 million for Indian students. This amount would be available to be utilized